Financial Assistance to States for Development of Minor Ports

*227. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Governments have sought financial assistance from the Centre to develop the minor ports located in their respective States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any such demand has been made by Orissa; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to assist the State Government of Orissa to develop and revive the minor ports particularly Dhamara Port?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH): (a) and (b) As per the provisions of Indian Ports Act, 1908, the responsibility for development of Minor Ports lies entirely with the State Government concerned, which have administrative control on such ports. The funds for development of minor ports are placed by the Planning Commission in the Budget Grants of the State Government concerned.

(c) No, Sir. Ministry of Surface Transport has not received any proposal from Government of Orissa.

(d) Does not arise.

External Debts

*278. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of external debt outstanding against India as on 31st March, 1999;

(b) the total amount paid back during 1998-99 and the amount due each year in the next three years; and

(c) the amount of balance of payments, deficits in 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 and the amount and type of capital flows through which these deficits were met?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) The total outstanding external debt of India as on March 31, 1999 is estimated at US dollar 97.68 billion.

(b) The estimates of total external debt service payments (principal and interest) during 1998-99 to 2001-02 are as under: